

COUNTRY Polish-occupied Germany REPORT NO.

TOPIC Soviet and Polish Troops in Schweidnitz

25X1

PAGES ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to November 1950, the Barbara Kaserne in Schweidnitz (P 51/H 13) was continuously occupied by Soviet troops. Nine or ten light guns on pneumatic tires with rectangular shields were once seen in the area north of the installation. No prime movers were observed. The installation was not occupied to capacity in the middle of 1950, [redacted] estimated the troops at about 300. Army cots were carried away from the quarters at that time. (1)

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2. Prior to the fall of 1950, guns and trucks were occasionally seen in the yard of the Flandern Kaserne on the south side of Grenadierstrasse. It could not be determined whether a unit of the Soviet Army or of the Soviet Air Force was quartered there. Trucks towing guns were also occasionally seen near the Loretto Kaserne east of the Flandern Kaserne in 1950. The Loretto Kaserne was a small installation which consisted of 1 four-story barracks building, 2 former stables and 1 garage. The former Grenadier Kaserne east of the Loretto Kaserne was occupied by a Soviet Air Force unit prior to the end of 1950. (2)
3. The former German Army ration supply depot at the southeastern edge of the airfield, which was connected with the Schweidnitz-Breslau (P 52/C 41) railroad line by a spur track, served as Soviet supply depot until November 1950.

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[redacted] there was a ration supply warehouse, a clothing warehouse, a warehouse for engines and engine parts, a warehouse for old Soviet uniforms and a warehouse for spare parts. Each warehouse was a multi-story building about 50 meters long. Source was unable to determine the use of another warehouse of the same size and of 10 to 15 low wooden buildings that were restricted to civilian workers. Trucks from Sprottau (O 52/B 35) and Liegnitz (O 52/B 82) also picked up rations at the ration supply depot. Personnel handling parachutes were observed in front of the warehouses at all times. [redacted] Soviet Army units drew the rations from the supply depot. (3)

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4. Prior to November 1950, Soviet officers wearing blue and brown uniforms, some with red stripes along the outer seams of the trouser legs, were seen in the building of the former county court which housed a Soviet headquarters. (4)
5. Prior to November 1950, about one battalion of young Polish troops with red collar patches was quartered in the Bolko Kaserne on the north side of Bolkostrasse, just opposite the junction of Aeussere Kirchstrasse with Bolkostrasse. The unit was once seen marching out of the installation and consisted of three companies armed with infantry weapons. [redacted] these 25X1 soldiers would stay in the installation for only about one year. No other Polish units were stationed at the military post. (5)

6. Prior to early November 1950, the buildings of the former German recruiting district headquarters at the northeastern intersection of Moltkestrasse and Stallstrasse were used by the Poles for military and civilian purposes. Registrations for the draft took place in one building where Polish soldiers as well as civilians were seen. Another building quartered soldiers and a third one, Polish children of school age. The so-called Festungsspeicher south of the Bolko Kaserne was used for the storage of flour and was under Polish administration.

7. In 1949 and 1950, Soviet uniforms, which were brought by Soviet soldiers from the Barbara Kaserne, were washed in the laundry of the former Bethany Hospital. The washing included brown blouses and, after the end of 1949, and the beginning of 1950, an increasing quantity of black blouses. In March 1950, 6 to 8 full-track armored vehicles with long gun barrels and streamlined turrets were observed moving from Vorwerkstrasse to Bolkostrasse and heading for the main railroad station. (6)

8. Soldiers wearing khaki uniforms and visor-type caps with a red band were seen in the Bolko Kaserne which was occupied by Polish troops. Prior to September 1950, small groups without arms were repeatedly seen marching out of the installation. Only a few motor vehicles were seen in the billeting area. (5)

9. An old ration supply depot, which prior to September 1950 was guarded by military sentries, was located at the southwestern intersection of Langstrasse and Weite Kirchstrasse. At irregular intervals, boxes, bales and packages were observed being transported to and from the depot by motor vehicles which were escorted by armed soldiers of an undetermined nationality. Prior to September 1950, a grain elevator, about 100 meters long and without windows, was located on the south side of Untere Bolkostrasse, south of the Bolko Kaserne. Grain was frequently shipped to this elevator. [redacted] the elevator was under Soviet administration. (7)

[redacted] Comments.

- (1) The report confirms the Barbara Kaserne as being occupied by a Soviet motorized artillery unit up to November 1950. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] the old troops were transferred to the U.S.S.R., and that new troops arrived in Schweidnitz. [redacted] 25X1
- (2) According to previous information, a Soviet signal regiment was quartered in the Plandern Kaserne in October 1950. The Loretto Kaserne is probably a section of the Arras Kaserne, where aircraft engines and an engine test stand were seen in October 1950. The report confirms the Grenadier Kaserne as being occupied by a Soviet Air Force unit. [redacted] 25X1

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- (3) The report confirms the large Soviet supply depot at the southeastern edge of the airfield up to November 1950. [REDACTED] 25X1
- (4) A Soviet headquarters was repeatedly reported to be located in this building in November 1950. It probably is a rear service headquarters under the Hq Northern Group of Forces.
- (5) The report confirms the Bolko Kaserne as being occupied by Polish infantry troops, probably of battalion strength, up to November 1950. [REDACTED] the Heuler or Galwitz Kaserne, which adjoins the Bolko Kaserne to the south, is probably occupied by the same unit. [REDACTED] 25X1
- (6) Because of the black uniform blouses and the tanks seen there, it is believed that Soviet tank troops were also located in Schweidnitz. The only indication to this effect was contained in a report of August 1951. [REDACTED]
- (7) The grain storage building south of the Bolko Kaserne was probably subordinate to the rear service headquarters in the county seat and is believed to be connected with the mill in Reichenbach. See [REDACTED]

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